Nancy Stoner TPs
Overview of SDWA

SDWA 40th Anniversary

- 2014 is a very important year for our Safe Drinking Water Act….SDWA turns 40!
- SDWA was originally passed in 1974 to protect public health by regulating our nation's drinking water supply.
- Today there are 156,000 public water systems nationwide providing safe drinking water to over 300M Americans.
- The United States is one of the few countries in the world where tourist can come and not be concerned over the water they consume.
    - Americans drink more than one billion glasses of tap water per day.
    - In the 1900, an average of 25,000 Americans died of typhoid.
        - By 1960, thanks to the use of chlorine in water, that number dropped to 20.
        - Today, according to the CDC….the U.S. sees approximately 5,700 cases occur annually.
        - Most cases, up to 75%, are acquired while traveling internationally.
- Americans enjoy the convenience of turning their tap every morning to
    - Make their coffee
    - Brush their teeth
    - Take a shower
- Without being concerned over the quality of the water that comes out the tap.
- And this is all thanks to the hard work of drinking water utilities.
- I know you often do your job so well that it goes unrecognized.
- So I want to thank you for all your hard work the last 40 years.
    - Thank you for running American's drinking water utilities that ensure the protection of public health and then economic health of our communities.

- At EPA we really value the partnership and collaborative atmosphere that has grown between the Agency and the members of AMWA.
- Thank you for your dedication.

West VA – Source Water Protection

- Our nation was reminded of the importance of safe drinking water a few months ago when a chemical spill left 300,000 residents in West Virginia without safe drinking water.
- Residents were left without water to drink, cook, bathe or wash with after West Virginia American had to notify the affected customers that spanned over nine counties within the Charleston metropolitan area.
    - This included homes, business and hospitals.
- West VA American sprinted into action and issued a "do-not-use" advisory to ensure public health protection until there was a better handle on the situation.
- Three months after this event, this area is still impacted by this event.
    - Public trust and confidence was shattered.
- This incident shined a light on the vulnerability of our drinking water supplies.
- Many factors contributed to this incident
    - A leaking tank and failed secondary containment
    - Proximity to drinking water intake
    - Inadequate system to notify the public water system
    - Few available options for alternate supplies
- For this reason, it's important to remember how critical source water protection programs are.
- Activities to protect drinking water must include cross industry coordination.
- We need to include drinking water utilities in emergency response planning and implementation.

- We need to share assessment information with local planning officials so that drinking water protection can be considered when siting and managing new and existing potential contaminant sources.
- GIS-based tools are now more readily available, which can also help to advance these efforts.
- So I want to encourage you to think about this important matter of source water protection, when you are out in the field looking at your utilities.
- We need to coordinate at all levels to ensure the protection of our irreplaceable sources of drinking water.

Source Water Collaborative

- I really need to THANK AMWA for their participation in and contribution to the Source Water Collaborative.
    - This partnership is key to improving source water quality and availability.
- EPA continues to support the Source Water Collaborative….who has made great headway by finding creative ways to partner with the agricultural community to address some of our most challenging contaminants…such as nutrients.
- With water quality and quantity issues in the forefront of our challenges…source water protection needs to become part of our daily business…and not just a concept we agree upon but don't really practice…
- The Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative was awarded the 2012 U.S. Water Prize by the Clean Water America Alliance.
    - The Salmon Falls Watershed Collaborative, an ambitious inter-state effort to protect drinking water supplies for more than 47,000 residents in Maine and New Hampshire.
    - This accomplishment highlights the importance of inter-jurisdictional partnership

- to protect forests and reduce pollution from existing land uses
- and anticipated development to protect source of drinking water.

- I continue to highlight the importance of protecting both ground water and surface water in managing water quality.
    - Both DW and CW programs are working to identify CWA tools that can be applied to protect not only surface water but also support protection of ground water as sources of drinking water and drinking water supply.

SDWIS PRIME

- On this note of promoting the importance of sharing readily available information…our office continues to support the development of SDWIS PRIME.

- SDWIS PRIME continues to be a high priority for our office.
    - Not only is this project part of the Agency's E-enterprise
    - But is a major initiative to modernize how we conduct everyday business.
- There is a need and desire to increase the accessibility of the drinking water data in an efficient and responsive manner.
- The transparency of the data will help our communities understand the quality of their drinking water.
- We are working hard to complete this project.

Regulatory Determination 3

- Regarding the development of drinking water regulations….many of you probably know that EPA has been working on Regulatory Determination 3.
- The 96 SDWA directs the Agency to make determinations on whether or not to regulate at least five contaminants form the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) on a five year cycle.
- EPA published the CCL3, which listed 116 contaminants, on October 8, 2009.
- Pending the completion of OMB review and Administrator signature, EPA expects to

announce and request comment on the preliminary regulatory determinations for five contaminants that are listed on the third Contaminant Candidate List (CCL3) this year.

- After considering public comments, EPA expects to finalize these regulatory determinations in 2015.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3)

- The Agency is currently implementing the monitoring required under UCMR3.
- As some of you know, the 96 Amendments require that once every five years the Agency issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems.
- This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health.
- UCMR3 monitoring started January 2013; ends in 2015.
- We have seen strong state and utility support in the implementation of UCMR3…
    - *Which demonstrates the dedication of our drinking water sector in light of tough, challenging budget times…*
- EPA posted the first round of results from UCMR3 monitoring last fall.
- The second round of results was posted in February of this year.
- The 2nd round of data was similar to the 1st round results.
- It is too early in the process to determine what future steps the agency might take in response to the results.
    - However, this afternoon Peter Grevatt, will go over some of the preliminary contaminants we have been seeing.
- It's important to note that due to improved analytical methods, we are able to detect many contaminants at very low concentrations.
- This can be challenging and at times alarming to the general public…
    - We have heard from utilities that this can impact the reputation of a utility

- So we are working with our stakeholders to ensure we communicate what we are detecting, at what levels and what does that mean to the health of their communities.

Long term revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule

- As you all know, the Agency has been working on the long term revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule.
- The Lead and Copper rule is a complex treatment technique regulation.
- This regulation has some tough issues—which is why we decided to ask our NDWAC to form a working group at our December 2013 meeting.
- The agency is seeking in-depth input on complex key rule revision topics.
- This working group will meet over the course of a year and provide detailed input to the NDWAC committee on these key issues.
- The key issues the working group will tackle include:
  - Sample Site Selection Criteria
  - Lead Sampling Protocol
  - Public Education for Copper
  - Measures to Ensure Optimal Corrosion Control Treatment
  - Lead Service Line Replacement Requirements
- The first meeting was hosted two weeks ago: March 25 & 26.
- The kick-off meeting was a success…working group members were highly engaged...we had excellent discussions.
- The next meeting is scheduled for May 29-30.

Climate Change Impacts on Water Infrastructure & the Need for Resiliency

- As we continue to experience higher frequency and intensity natural disasters event, water infrastructure resiliency will be key in the recovery process.

- Super Storm Sandy showed us just how vulnerable our populations and infrastructure can be to extreme weather conditions.
- It is critical that utilities be as resilient as possible to be able to quickly respond to and recover from incidents when they are affected.
- Citizens and emergency responders alike are beginning to understand just how critical a role that water and wastewater utilities play in community continuity and recovery.
- EPA continues to support increased awareness within the emergency management community of the cascading economic and environmental impacts that can result from service disruptions in the water sector.
- Minor disruptions to drinking and waste water services can have severe impacts on public health, which is why it's critical for utilities to become more resilient and be prepared to conduct emergency response when an event does strike.
- EPA will continue to **build tools that educate** our utilities about climate science and adaptation options so that utility owners and operators better prepare their systems for the impacts of climate change.
- EPA will continue to **work with other federal agencies** as well as state and local authorities to facilitate communication and coordination at all levels to ensure emergency preparedness in case of an event.